



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet. December 2005

Site cleanup scheduled to begin at the Former PureGro site in Brawley, California



Site Photo

We invite you to review and comment on a proposed plan to clean-up toxic chemicals at the Former PureGro site (Site) located at 1025 River Drive in the city of Brawley. The Site is located north of River Drive and is composed of 11.66 acres. The land to the north of the site is vacant, to the east is farmland, to the south are residential homes, and to the west are the railroad tracks. The predominant wind direction is generally towards the east. PureGro is in the process of removing contamination from the adjacent farmland and from what is now referred to as the Offsite area that extends along the eastern site border.

The plan, a draft Offsite Removal Action Workplan (RAW), describes what our agency views as the best way to address contaminated soil at the land adjacent to the Site. The plan was prepared based on the results of an offsite sampling program. Upon approval, the draft RAW will allow for the excavation and removal of contaminated soil from the adjacent land. We believe this plan will protect the public health and the environment.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). We serve as the lead agency in overseeing the investigation and cleanup at the site. Our goal is to safeguard the public health and protect the environment. The cleanup team includes our agency, the site owners (Unocal), and their contractors.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

December 27, 2005 through January 30, 2006

A 30-day public comment period will be held to comment on the draft Offsite RAW for the Former PureGro site. We invite you to submit your comments/concerns during this time. DTSC will consider your comments before a final decision is made and only after all the issues have been considered.

**Public Meeting
January 19th, 2006**

6:30 p.m.

Lion's Convention Center at 225 "A" Street in Brawley, CA

The proposed cleanup will be discussed at this meeting and DTSC staff will provide you with an opportunity to ask questions and/or make comments regarding this proposed plan.



PureGro Site history

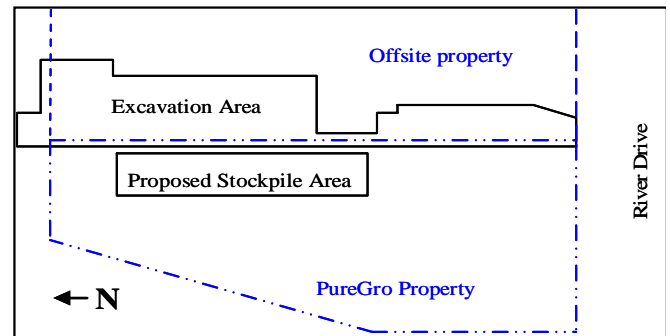
The PureGro Company site is the former location of an agricultural chemical business. Dry fertilizer was mixed and distributed from the facility since the onset of its operations in the 1940's. Dust pesticides were formulated at the Site starting in 1957 and a liquid emulsion plant was started in the early 1960's. The pesticide formulation process was discontinued in the mid-1970s. A lime sulfur plant was established in the early 1960s; sulfur plant operations ceased around 1963. Chemical operations ceased in 2000. In 2001, the demolition of the buildings on the Site and the removal of equipment and product residues began.

Chemicals found at the site

Previous investigation activities have been performed at the Site from the 1980s through 2004 including testing the soil for pesticides and other agricultural chemicals. Some samples collected at various locations throughout the site verified that the soil has been impacted with chlorinated pesticides and herbicides, petroleum hydrocarbons, and metals. The primary chemicals of concern are the organochlorine pesticides (OCPs), which include dietrin, toxaphene, 4,4-DDE, and 4,4-DDT and are used in the agricultural industry. Areas which have not been sampled during prior investigations are under further investigation.

Offsite sampling workplan approved

Offsite soil impacts were identified during prior investigations. In May 2004, an offsite sampling program was completed and similar chemicals of concern were found on the adjoining property to the east and north. Based on the results, a draft Offsite Removal Action Workplan (RAW) was submitted to our department. PureGro proposed to stockpile the soil excavated from the adjoining properties onto the Puregro site until a final remedy is selected for the site. This will properly remediate both the onsite contamination and the stockpile from this offsite removal action.



Drawing of Proposed Site Activities

We propose to dig up and take away the contaminated soil

Our proposal includes:

- removing up to 12,700 cubic yards of contaminated soil to a depth of 2 to 4 feet, depending on the depth of contamination to achieve the remedial objective
- using large backhoes
- completing excavation and other activities over a period of less than 30 days.
- backfilling the holes with clean soil
- compacting and grading
- minimizing traffic impacts by having flagmen directing the trucks
- total duration is estimated at 2-3 months

Dealing with dust and noise

To protect the public, we propose to:

- lightly spray the soil with water to prevent dust
- air monitoring for dust during all earth-moving activities utilizing and upwind/downwind monitoring approach
- meteorological measurements will be taken once an hour
- cover and secure the piles of soil at the end of every day
- engineering practices to controls noise levels
- dust controls measures implemented to protect the surrounding community from nuisance dust or odors

Our findings about the effects on the environment of the cleanup action

As required by state law (the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA), we studied the possible effects of the cleanup itself on the environment. For example, we looked at whether the digging might disturb any wildlife or habitat, cause dust pollution, or interfere with traffic patterns. DTSC determined that the cleanup would not have any significant negative effect on the environment. DTSC describes the study and this conclusion in a Notice of Exemption that is available for review and comment during the same period as the Draft Offsite Removal Action Workplan.

How to submit your comments

The public comment period will begin on December 27, 2005 and end on January 30, 2006, during which time you may provide us with your comments and/or questions on the plan. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by January 30, 2006, and sent to:

Ms Rania Zabaneh, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
E-mail: rzabaneh@dtsc.ca.gov.

Before making a final decision on the plan, we will consider and respond in writing to all comments received. If necessary, the plan may be modified based on comments we receive.

What happens next

When the final plan is approved, field work may begin in Spring 2006 and should take about 2 to 4 weeks. Field activities should not affect nearby properties. After field activities are conducted, the site will be restored and prepared for its upcoming land use.

Who to contact for more information

If you have questions regarding any site activities, please contact Ms. Rania Zabaneh, DTSC Project Manager at (714) 484-5479, or Ms. Leticia Hernandez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5488.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Ms Sandra Friedman, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(818) 484-5383

For more information about our department, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

For more information

If you have questions about the draft Offsite RAW or Notice of Exemption please contact the following agency staff:

Ms Rania Zabaneh
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5479
Ms Leticia Hernandez
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5488

Meeting Accessibility

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Leticia Hernandez: (714) 484-5488, at least one week before the meeting.

Information repositories

The draft RAW, Notice of Exemption, and other project documents are available for review at:

Brawley Public Library
400 Main Street, Brawley, CA 92227
(760) 344-1891

Monday – Thursday: 12pm-8pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm
Friday and Sunday: Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: File Coordinators at
(714) 484-5337 or (714) 484-5336
Call for an appointment

Notice to hearing impaired

You can get more information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to connect you with Leticia Hernandez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5488.

Comment Form and Mailing Coupon

Former PureGro Company Site Brawley, California

You may use this sheet to

- *send us your comments*
- *be added to or taken off the mailing list*

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. Please send this form to Ms. Rania Zabaneh, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California, 90630. All written public comments on the draft Removal Action Workplan must be postmarked or e-mailed by January 30, 2006. You may also e-mail this same information to rzabaneh@dtsc.ca.gov.

☐ Please, **add** me to the mailing list

☐ Please, **delete** me from the mailing list

Name: _____

Organization (optional): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (optional): _____ Fax (optional): _____

Comments (attach additional pages if needed): _____

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Our mailings are used only for the keeping you informed of our activities. We don't routinely release our mailing lists to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

INSIDE: Site cleanup scheduled to begin at the Former PureGro site

PÁGINAS INTERIORES: Propuesta limpieza del suelo comenzara en el Sitio de la Anterior Compañía
PureGro